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ABRAHAM LINCOLN

By JOHN McELROY.

CHAPTER XXXVI.

Lincoln as a Christian.

In his interesting book, "Civil War Days," Gen. Jas. F. Rusling tells of Lincoln's devout faith in the protection and assistance of the Almighty:

"The next time I saw Mr. Lincoln was on Sunday, July 5, 1863—the Sunday after the battles of Gettysburg and Vicksburg—and it happened in this wise: Gettysburg was fought on July 1, 2 and 3, 1863. In the great conflict of Thursday, July 2 (held by many to have been the real battle of Gettysburg, because of the heavy fighting and tremendous Confederate losses, which sapped the life of Gen. Lee's army), Gen. Daniel E. Sickles, of New York, commanding the Third Corps, had lost his right leg, and on the Sunday following (July 5) arrived in Washington, D. C., with his leg amputated above the knee. He was taken to a private dwelling on F street, nearly opposite the Ebbitt House, and here I found him in a front room on the first floor, resting on a hospital stretcher, when I called to see him about 3 p. m. I was then a Lieutenant-Colonel on his staff, and naturally anxious to see my chief.

LINCOLN'S INTERVIEW WITH GEN. SICKLES.

"We had not been talking long when his Orderly announced His Excellency the President, and immediately afterward Mr. Lincoln walked into the room, accompanied by his son 'Tad,' then a lad of perhaps 10 or 12 years. He was staying out at the Soldiers' Home, but, having learned of Gen. Sickles's arrival in Washington, rode in on horseback to call on him, with a squad of cavalry as escort. They shook hands cordially, but pathetically, and it was easy to see that both held each other in high esteem. They were both born politicians. They both loved the Union sincerely and heartily, and Sickles had already shown such high qualities, both as statesman and soldier, that Lincoln had been quick to perceive his weight and value in the great struggle then shaking the Nation. Besides, Sickles was a War Democrat, astute and able, and Mr. Lincoln was too shrewd a Republican to pass any of these by in those perilous war days.

"Greetings over, Mr. Lincoln dropped into a chair, and, crossing his prodigious arms and legs, soon fell to questioning Sickles as to all the phases of the combat at Gettysburg. He asked, first, of course, as to Gen. Sickles's own ghastly wound; when and how it happened, and how he was getting on, and encouraged him; then passed next to our great casualties there, and how the wounded were being cared for, and finally came to the magnitude and significance of the victory there, and what Gen. Meade proposed to do with it.

"Sickles, recumbent on his stretcher, with a cigar between his fingers, puffing it leisurely, answered Mr. Lincoln in detail, but warily, as became so astute a man and soldier, and discussed the great battle and its probable consequences with a lucidity and ability remarkable in his condition then, enfeebled and exhausted as he was by the shock and danger of such a wound and amputation. Occasionally he would wince with pain, and call sharply to his Orderly to wet his fevered stump with water. But he never dropped his cigar nor lost the thread of his narrative, nor missed the point of their discussion. His intellect certainly seemed as strong and astute as ever, and in an acquaintance with him of now over 35 years I never saw it work more accurately and keenly. He certainly got his side of the story of Gettysburg well into the President's mind and heart that Sunday afternoon, and this doubtless stood him in good stead afterward, when Meade proposed to court-martial him for fighting so magnificently, if unskilfully (which remains to be proved), on that bloody and historic July 2.

"'No,' replied Honest Old Abe; 'no, we can't do that. Gen. Sickles may have erred; we are all liable to. But, at any rate, he fought superbly. He gave his leg—his life almost—for the Union. And now there is glory enough to go around for all.'

"When Mr. Lincoln's inquiries seemed ended Gen. Sickles, after a puff or two of his cigar in silence, resumed the conversation substantially as follows:

"'Well, Mr. President, I beg pardon, but what did you think about Gettysburg? What was your opinion of things while we were campaigning and fighting up there?'

"'Oh,' replied Mr. Lincoln, 'I didn't think much about it. I was not much concerned about you.'

"'You were not?' rejoined Sickles, as if amazed. 'Why, we heard that you Washington folks were a good deal excited, and you certainly had good cause to be, for it was "nip and tuck" with us a good deal of the time.'

"'Yes, I know that. And I suppose some of us were a little rattled. Indeed, some of the Cabinet talked of Washington's being captured, and ordered a gunboat or two here, and even went so far as to send some Government archives aboard, and wanted me to go, too, but I refused. Stanton and Welles, I believe, were both "stampeded" somewhat, and Seward, I reckon, too. But I said, "No, gentlemen, we are all right, and we are going to win at Gettysburg," and we did, right handsomely. No, Gen. Sickles, I had no fears of Gettysburg.'

"'Why not, Mr. President? How was that? Pretty much everybody down here, we heard, was more or less panicky.'

"'Yes, I expect, and a good many more than will own up now. But, actually, Gen. Sickles, I had no fears of Gettysburg, and if you really want to know I will tell you why. Of course, I don't want you and Col. Rusling here to say anything about this—at least not now. People might laugh if it got out, you know. But the fact is, in the very pinch of the campaign there, I went to my room one day, and got down on my knees, and prayed Almighty God for victory at Gettysburg. I told Him that this was His country, and the war was His war, but that we really couldn't stand another Fredericksburg or Chancellorsville. And then and there I made a solemn vow with my Maker that if He would stand by you boys at Gettysburg I would stand by Him.'

"'And after thus wrestling with the Almighty in prayer, I don't know how it was, and it is not for me to explain, but, somehow or other, a sweet comfort crept into my soul that God Almighty had taken the whole business there into His own hands, and we were bound to win at Gettysburg! And He did stand by you boys at Gettysburg, and now I will stand by Him. No, Gen. Sickles, I had no fears of Gettysburg, and that is the why.'

"Mr. Lincoln said all this with great solemnity and impressiveness, almost as Moses might have spoken when he came down from Sinai. When he had concluded there was a pause in the conversation that nobody seemed disposed to break. Mr. Lincoln especially seemed to be communing with the Infinite One again. The first to speak was Gen. Sickles, who, between the puffs of his cigar presently resumed, as follows:

"'Well, Mr. President, what are you thinking about Vicksburg nowadays? How are things getting along down there?'

"'Oh,' answered Mr. Lincoln, very gravely, 'I don't quite know. Grant is still pegging away down there. As we used to say out in Illinois, I think he will make a spoon or spoil a horn before he gets thru. Some of our folks think him slow, and want me to remove him. But, to tell the truth, I kind of like U. S. Grant. He doesn't worry and bother me. He isn't shrieking for reinforcements all the time. He takes what troops we can safely give him, considering our big job all around—and we have a pretty big job in this war—and does the best he can with what he has got, and doesn't grumble and scold all the while. Yes, I confess, I like Gen. Grant—U. S. Grant—"Uncle Sam Grant" (dwelling humorously on the last name). There is a great deal to him, first and last. And, heaven helping me, unless something happens more than I see now, I mean to stand by Grant a good while yet.'

"'So, then, you have no fears about Vicksburg, either, Mr. President?' added Gen. Sickles.

"'Well, no; I can't say that I have,' replied Mr. Lincoln, very soberly. 'The fact is—but don't say anything about this, either, just now—I have been praying to Almighty God for Vicksburg also. I have wrestled with Him, and told Him how much we need the Mississippi, and how it ought to flow unvexed to the sea, and how that great Valley ought to be forever free, and I reckon He understands the whole business down there "from A to Izzard." I have done the very best I could to help Gen. Grant along, and all the rest of our Generals, tho some of them don't think so, and now it is kind of borne in on me that somehow or other we are going to win at Vicksburg, too. I can't tell how soon, but I believe we will. For this will save the Mississippi and bisect the Confederacy, and be in line with God's laws besides. And if Grant only does this thing down there—I don't care much how, so he does it right—why, Grant is my man, and I am his the rest of this war.'

"Of course, Mr. Lincoln did not then know that Vicksburg had already fallen, on July 4, and that a United States gunboat was then speeding its way up the Mississippi to Cairo with the glorious news that was soon to thrill the country and the civilized world thru and thru. Gettysburg and Vicksburg! Our great twin Union victories! What were they not to us in that fateful Summer of 1863? And what would have happened to the American Republic had both gone the other way? Of course, I do not pretend to say that Abraham Lincoln's faith and prayers saved Gettysburg and Vicksburg; but they certainly did not do the Union any harm. And to him his serene confidence in victory there because of these was a comfort and a joy most beautiful to behold on that memorable July 5, 1863."

The Draft Riots.

It had become necessary to order drafts in many of the States to fill up the depleted armies, and this afforded an opportunity for the exhibition of the most venomous Copperheadism. Nothing was left undone to inflame the minds of the people against having their sons dragged away to be "butchered for the sake of the nigger." Even in Pennsylvania troops had to be employed at times to enforce the draft, and in some parts of Ohio, Indiana and Illinois there was temporarily a condition of civil war. In New York the Confederate emissaries and the officers of the Knights of the Golden Circle got in their work most effectively, inciting terrible riots, in which officers and soldiers were killed, negros massacred, a negro orphan asylum burned, and for three days the city was in the hands of the lowest and worst elements. Troops were sent from the Army of the Potomac directly after the battle of Gettysburg to restore order and protect property.

HORATIO SEYMOUR.

CLEMENT L. VALLANDIGHAM.

The Battle of Chickamauga.

The more hopeful feeling in the country which had followed the victories in July was rudely shaken by news from the great central army—that of the Cumberland. After driving Bragg out of Tullahoma, Gen. Rosecrans, by a strategy of the highest order, had manuvered his opponent out of Chattanooga, the great objective for which the Army of the Cumberland had been fighting and marching for two long years. This made a triumph of the supremest character, and had Rosecrans been content with it his laurels would have been bright indeed. But Rosecrans, like all geniuses, was uncertain, and his six months of absolute idleness at Murfreesboro were now succeeded by a feverish and restless activ-

(Continued on page two.)

THE PRESIDENT IN THE WEST.

The Insurgent Papers Now Getting in Their Criticisms of the Various Speeches—Time Can Only Tell as to the Real Effect—All the Noise Made by the Insurgents—Senator La Follette—Pinchot and Ballinger—Congress and the Water Powers.

There are sounds of popular turmoil out of the West. The reports are rapidly straying into Washington. They are the aftermath of the Taft progress across that wide belt, wherein the insurgents dwell. He has traversed their country and passed to the farther side, where men of the dominant party are more in accord with him.

As he penetrated the insurgent territory the President spoke his mind. He talked of tariff, of revision in railroad-rate regulation, and in restraint of trade. He announced himself on the legalizing of the boycott, on the reorganization of the Interstate Commerce Commission, so that there should be a United States Circuit Court of five to hear railroad appeals, very like the Customs Court of Appeals which Congress, with his full approval, authorized last Winter. Incidentally he talked quite a bit about speeding the processes of the courts so that justice may be had earlier—a theme he accentuated before the lawyers of Bath County, Va., the Summer he was a Presidential candidate, and yet again when he and Bryan in the very hight of the campaign were guests of commercial bodies in Chicago.

And he has come out in very emphatic terms for the Roosevelt conservation policies, and in a special statement informed Chief Forester Gifford Pinchot at Salt Lake City that he cannot be spared from the Forestry Bureau. The President has, in fact, now outlined about all the leading policies of his Administration, as these policies have developed to date, after a Summer of close consultation with members of his Cabinet regarding those policies. While he has been out upon the road only about two weeks, he has said many very interesting things for the edification of all the people. No wonder all eyes are upon the West and will be upon the West more than ever till the Presidential train circles up into Washington State and down into California and starts on the homeward trip.

A Good Deal That Is New.

The President has said a deal that is new, altho he has talked mostly upon old subjects. That was to be expected, for there are no new issues, and the issues uppermost are those he inherited from Roosevelt and from the campaign. A voluminous sequel of comment and criticism will follow—is, as a matter of fact, already proceeding. The President expected as much, probably hoped for comment and criticism, because in that way public sentiment is quickened and crystallized. By the time he swings around into Dixie Land he may be able to ascertain with some precision just what character and degree of support his various propositions for solving legislative and executive problems will have. It will be to his advantage to have this information. It will guide him in the Winter's efforts.

It is plain now, when the President has been so short a time away, that the criticism of his series of speeches will not be altogether friendly or favorable. This does not signify, however, that conclusions of Presidential unpopularity should be jumped at or that the Administration is skirting dangerous shoals. It is fairer to infer that Mr. Taft is passing thru the critical period which every new President has to face. He is a different man than President Roosevelt. The latter has a personality that greatly entertained the multitudes. They became tremendously infatuated with him, idolized him, and cannot quickly switch to a new favorite. In that regard President Roosevelt was an exceedingly difficult man to follow in the White House.

The country must have a year or two always to get acquainted with a new President. It does not get well acquainted with him as a Presidential candidate, much as there is printed about a Presidential candidate in the newspapers and magazines and much as he appears in public places. The process is a slow one for the people. It was slow in the case of Roosevelt. When McKinley died he was a much-beloved man among Americans, and had been for a long time. But McKinley had been President two or three years before the masses began to show strong affection for him.

On a Lonely Eminence.

On the lonely eminence of the Presidency Mr. Taft has to work out his own popularity, as McKinley and Roosevelt had to do. Of course, he may not win great popularity, but there is no reason yet for such an inference because of his two weeks of journeying in the West. The people will get something of a measure of him, which they had not previously, by the time he returns to Washington. He has had a big tussle over one great issue—the tariff. He has set the wheels to turning in the Executive Departments and inaugurated there the ideas of administration which he favors. This Winter, from the very moment he gets back into the White House again, there will be more large tasks, which were imposed as a result of the last National campaign. The President's success during the season will afford a wider range of vision and make practicable a conclusion regarding the popular verdict.

His course during the last two weeks has brought the regulars into closer sympathy with him. The word coming to Washington from many sources is all one way in this respect. In what has been done the President has no criticism for the leaders upon whom he relied to have his plans executed, albeit they may not always have accomplished as much as he wanted. The President has emphasized again and again that old principle of popular Government thru compromise. His utterances have been in approval of Speaker Cannon, upon whom and upon Senator Aldrich many attacks are being made during the Autumn.

In the way of Presidential detraction from Republican quarters the insurgents are making all the noise. They are in the territory which the President has just crossed. Predictions are thick from men of their view that the insurgents will give the White House a wide berth this Winter, and let the President go it alone. Those predictions may come true. During the Summer they were not numerous among the White House callers, for they were not in accord with the President's plans for conducting his Administration. He was not unfriendly to them, as he took occasion frequently to demonstrate. He simply chose to conduct political affairs thru regular rather than insurgent channels.

Forecasting the Future.

The insurgent talk of the hour proceeds to the limit of advancing candidates for the Presidency in 1912, which should not be taken too seriously. It is almost three years before another Republican will be nominated for the Presidency. A few days after Congress had adjourned last August, Senator Cummins, returning West, intimated to some friends in Chicago that he might be in the race next time. The insurgents are likely to continue their agitation about winning Western States for some other candidate than President Taft, and yet by the time the convention assembles it may be hardly remembered that anyone else than Taft was in the field.

There will be a less remote political influence, growing out of the President's refusal to recognize the insurgents further than to express gratification, as he did in one of his Western speeches, that they are staying in the party. That will be upon the elections of next year. Insurgent officeholders, coming up for another term, must face the obstacle with voters of not being in accord with the head of the party. Their opponents will make the most of it.

Senator "Bob" La Follette is likely to feel the opposition as much as any of the insurgent following. He will have to fight for a re-election to the Senate next year. A stormy petrel in politics, he invariably has a great battle when he runs for office. Now things have come to such a pass that all his old enemies and many new ones are centering their forces upon him. He is out openly criticizing the President regarding tariff, and is using the columns of his weekly newspaper to that end. If he wins a re-election in such a role, it would be a greater feather in his cap than he has ever worn before. If he should lose, it would greatly discourage the kickers in other States who have been trooping under his banner.

With a re-election as Senator there is little doubt that Mr. La Follette would be raising the standard of his Presidential candidacy in several Mississippi Valley States—in Wisconsin, Minnesota, the Dakotas, Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska. He has long been strong in most of those States, and there might be some vieing between him and the President for delegates to the next National Convention.

Forester Pinchot.

The most notable political arrival of the week in Washington is sure to be Chief Forester Pinchot, now on the train from Salt Lake City, where he conferred with the President, and received assurances that he was to be retained in his present position. It has long been expected that Mr. Pinchot would stay. The President's friends had no idea that he would dismiss an official who has become so thoroly identified with the conservation policies of the Government. The reports are that the West is mightily pleased that the President put his O. K. so emphatically upon Mr. Pinchot, even tho his plans to bring Mr. Pinchot and Secretary of the Interior Ballinger together failed, and the two would not even speak as they encountered one another.

Washington likes Mr. Pinchot quite as well as the West likes him. He is an unpretentious man, but thoro and industrious. The Forest Service, administering the millions of acres of National forests, is a model organization which he has built up. He spends most of the time every Summer visiting these National forests, gathering ideas for improved administration the while he ascertains how the big force of men under his official charge are attending to their duties. He gets a day off now and then for fishing, of which he is very fond, and also for hunting, altho that form of sport does not appeal to him so strongly.

His visits to the National forests take him to some of the finest fishing and hunting in all the United States. He knows, as well as the best sportsmen, where fish can be caught on the route of his Summer travels. He likes deep-sea fishing, and every season spends a few days on the Pacific. His recent trip to the Farallones, some distance out from San Francisco, was to try his hand at hooking Pacific specimens. He has fished on the Pacific Ocean all the way from Washington State to Los Angeles, and can tell many a good story of his experiences.

In all probability the public will hear very little more from Mr. Pinchot appertaining to the famous Ballinger controversy. He is not the kind of a man who feeds that character of official contention, however determined he may be in his own views. Both he and Secretary Ballinger have now been assured in the strongest terms of the President's confidence. The President has promised publicly to ask Congress to legalize the methods of withdrawing public lands from entry, which Mr. Pinchot has been following. He is accordingly free to settle down to the administration of his Bureau without any worries regarding his official future.

Will the Friction Continue?

The ultra-Rooseveltians hoped to make the issue between Pinchot and Ballinger the means of breaking up the President's Cabinet before it had served a year. In that they seem to have been disappointed. It probably does not please Secretary Ballinger immensely to have Forester Pinchot come off so handsomely, even tho he (Ballinger) has the President's letter absolutely justifying him in every particular for his course. There will be no shaking of the foundations if Pinchot and Ballinger still refuse to speak as they pass or look up into the sky, as they did at Salt Lake City, when they happen in proximity. Whatever business the Bureau of Forestry has with the Department of the Interior need not take Mr. Pinchot over to the Secretary's office. The business in any event has finally to be transacted thru the office of Secretary of Agriculture Wilson. The latter has sided with his subordinate during the controversy that has filled the Summer with criminations and recriminations. But "Tama Jim" Wilson has kept on friendly terms with Mr. Ballinger. They sit immediately opposite each other at the President's Cabinet table, and should be able to get along amicably during the Winter.

Whether there will be any further developments of importance in the controversy, however, cannot be told. Apparently the President has found a satisfactory course of pacification. There will be many men on both sides willing to continue the quarrel for their own ends. Some conservation enthusiasts were beginning to bristle up, and their attitude was menacing for the President. In a few weeks it will become plain whether most of them are satisfied.

Congress has been wrestling for two or three sessions with questions affecting the Federal control of water powers on public lands. Those questions are closely related to the Pinchot controversy. Many bills, apart from any affecting the right to withhold public lands from entry where water-power sites are involved, will be pressed upon committees of Senate and House. The conservation of water powers on the National forests alone has brought up troublesome points, on which Congress has been asked to legislate. There are matters of taxation, especially when the power on a National forest is transmitted to distant towns and cities. With the development of electric transmission many powers in the West are utilized as far as 200 miles away.

Congress and the Water Powers.

Up to date Congress has taken practically no action, altho the representatives of big power concerns have come down to Washington for two or three Winters, and there have been hot contentions before committees about the framing of legislation. These will recur. In view of the contentions of the past Summer, the public interest in this prospective legislation will be augmented. Chief Pinchot will push his claims for adequate protection to the Government's interests and to prevent corporations from getting advantage thru any general enactments.

The strife centers in properties thruout the Rocky Mountains and neighboring ranges. There most of the National forests are located, and there capitalists are showing very great activity in getting control of power sites. The wealth of water powers in the Sierra Mountains, for example, is said to surpass many fold the wealth of minerals there. The possibilities for developing Pacific Coast towns and cities thru those powers are almost beyond comprehension. Electricity has become a most merchantable commodity for driving factories and mills and for making Pacific Coast towns grow into prosperous cities. One cannot easily measure what the water powers of the Rockies over a large part of the region from Colorado to the coast will do in the course of 50 or 100 years toward making great industrial and manufacturing States. The prospects of trade with the Orient have stimulated the efforts to gain possession of sites, because that section of the West is rich in raw materials. Once make manufacturing there cheaper than it is to the East, and there will be a tremendous advantage in making goods both for local consumption and for export to countries on the other side of the Pacific.

For which reasons, as long as the Government owns so many valuable water-power sites in that section the questions appertaining thereto are likely to come prominently before Administrations at Washington for many years. Chief Pinchot claims a big trust is already actively at work getting hold of these sites, and many people believe he knows what he is talking about.

They're All Agreed.

THE SUPREME COURT.

That Dignified Tribunal Composed of Men of Advanced Years.

The most conservative and sedate of all the Government institutions at the seat of Government is the first to go into action this Autumn. That is the Supreme Court of the United States. It begins its sessions next Monday for the Winter, and faces decisions in a lot of era-making litigation. Since the inauguration of new policies and the enactment of sweeping laws, as well as the enforcement of others that had been dead letters upon the statute book, the tasks of the Supreme Court have grown in number and magnitude.

It is now become a court of very old Justices, nearly all of whom, however, appear to be in fairly good health. Of the nine men making the court Chief Justice Fuller is in his 77th year. He gives careful and conscientious attention to the work, but is growing infirm. Justice Harlan, the senior Associate of the court, is also in his 77th year. Both men could have retired on full salary seven years ago, but there is a tradition that Chief Justices all die in office, and Chief Justice Fuller is a stickler for the traditions of his high place. He has now served 21 years as Chief Justice, and is the only Democrat at the head of any one of the three co-ordinate Departments of the Government. Justice Harlan has served in his present office 32 years. He likes the active work which keeps the court in Washington only from October to June, and prefers it to the idle life that would follow retirement.

Associate Justice Brewer, probably the most popular member of the court, is 72 years old, and is just rounding out 20 years of service there. He could have retired on full pay two years ago, but, like Justice Harlan, prefers the active life.

Justice White is 64; Justice Peckham 69, within one year of retiring age; Justice McKenna, 66; Justice Holmes, 68; Justice Day, 60; Justice Moody, 56. McKenna is not in good health. Moody, the youngest man on the court, who seemed to have a long and promising career ahead of him, is very ill with rheumatism. He is at his home in Haverhill, Mass., wasted away to a mere skeleton. His recovery is still problematical. It is not likely that he will return to work, at least for many months, and perhaps not at all during the court year.

Burden on the Elder Men.

The burden of the court's responsibility falls upon the senior Justices as matters stand now. Harlan, Brewer, White, Fuller and Peckham constitute the strength of the tribunal. In the very nature of things none of these except Justice White can have many years more of active service. It is generally understood that Justice Peckham will retire as soon as he is eligible, as did Justices Brown and Shiras, the only two living retired members of the court.

According to present prospects, several members of the court must be appointed within the next three years, and it is within the probabilities that by 1912 a majority of the Justices will be comparatively new men. So it is that one of the very important matters which President Taft may have to consider during his term of office is the selection of men who will compose a majority of this court of nine for many years to come. It is the policy to name men for Justices who will have a long term of service ahead of them, and the men whom the President will select may be the majority of the court for a quarter of a century.

Once nominated and confirmed, a Judge of the Supreme Court is practically beyond any governmental authority. He cannot be removed except by impeachment proceedings, and can serve till death calls him unless he chooses otherwise.

A Court of High Ability.

The ability of the court as at present constituted is not questioned, but as the older Justices drop out there will be a very crying demand for the nomination of men of very high capacity for judicial work. President Taft is expected to meet that demand, for, having served himself as a Circuit Judge, he has ideals of what the Supreme Court should be. He has been particularly careful in the selection of Judges for the District and Circuit Courts, and does not allow politics to influence him.

The serious illness of Justice Moody is regarded as very unfortunate. It leaves only eight members of the court, with the possibility always present that the court will be evenly divided. As Justice Moody had served as Attorney-General before he was elevated to the court, he has been unable to participate in the consideration of a number of cases, because of having represented the Government in some of them at earlier stages. The last case of serious illness that incapacitated one of the Supreme Court Judges for quite a period was that of Justice Jackson, of Tennessee. He was ill for a long time, following his appointment by President Harrison, and died before he had had any extended career as a member of the court.

The usual visit of courtesy upon the President at the convening of the court for the October term will be omitted this year, because of the President's absence. There are few formalities attending the resumption of business. Many cases await argument, and with little delay the round of arguments by counsel will be begun in the little court room which in the older days was the Chamber of the United States Senate.